



Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee

PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064
FAX (406) 444-3036

64th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

MARY CAFERRO--Vice Chair
FREDERICK (ERIC) MOORE
DIANE SANDS
ROGER WEBB

HOUSE MEMBERS

RON EHLL--Chair
JESSICA KARJALA
ALBERT OLSZEWSKI
GORDON PIERSON

COMMITTEE STAFF

SUE O'CONNELL, Lead Staff
ALEXIS SANDRU, Staff Attorney
FONG HOM, Secretary

COMMITTEE TO SEEK PUBLIC COMMENT ON CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Sue O'Connell, 406-444-3597

HELENA -- A legislative committee will be looking for ideas from mental health providers and others interested in Montana's system of children's mental health services when it meets next month in Billings.

The Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee is charged with developing a proposal for a pilot project to improve the outcomes for youth in the publicly funded mental health system. The pilot project also must be designed to link reimbursement for providers to documented outcomes. The outcomes could range from improvements in achieving quality benchmarks to improvements in integration and coordination of care, individualized treatment and care plans, focus on community-based services, recovery and permanent placement for children, and cost control.

The guidelines for the pilot project are outlined in [House Bill 422](#), which was passed by the 2015 Legislature. The bill requires the interim committee to study children's mental health outcomes before the 2017 legislative session.

As part of the study, the committee must hold a meeting outside of Helena to solicit information and recommendations from providers of Medicaid-funded children's mental health services and other interested parties.

The committee is seeking comments on the elements of a pilot project that will best meet the needs of Montana's children and that will take into account the geographic and demographic features of the state.

At its Nov. 19 meeting, the committee will set aside an extended period of time for public comment on those topics and others related to children's mental health outcomes and potential pilot project legislation. The committee will hear presentations on HB 422 topics on the morning of Nov. 19, with public comment scheduled for approximately 11:15 a.m.

The meeting will be held in Room 163 of McDonald Hall on the Montana State University Billings campus, 100 Poly Drive.

Individuals who are interested in providing comment but who are unable to attend the Billings

meeting in person may submit their comments in writing to the committee's staffer, Sue O'Connell, at soconnell@mt.gov or P.O. Box 201706, Helena, MT, 59601-1706

For more information about the committee's study, visit the [committee's website](#).

#